

Economic Growth Region 1 Summary

Indiana Economic Growth Region 1 is located in far northwest Indiana. It is comprised of seven counties: Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Newton, Jasper, Starke and Pulaski. The Gary Metropolitan Division of the Chicago Metropolitan Area and the Michigan City-LaPorte Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) are located in this region. Since January 2005 the four counties of Lake, Porter, Newton and Jasper joined to form the Gary Metropolitan Division. Lake County has the largest population base in the region with over 58 percent of the population. The county seat for Lake County is Crown Point. The other county seats of the region are: Valparaiso in Porter County, LaPorte in LaPorte County, Kentland in Newton County, Rensselaer in Jasper County, Knox in Starke County and Winamac in Pulaski County.

The Census Bureau has estimated the population of Region 1 for 2007 as 846,475 people. This total was an increase of 23,087 or 2.8 percent from the 2000 Census total of 823,388. The 2007 estimated population made up 13.3 percent of the total Indiana State estimated population of 6,344,881.

The region's "labor force" represents workers who reside in the region no matter where they work. Based on Indiana Department of Revenue Indiana IT-40 returns for 2007 (most recent data) persons living in but commuting to work out of the region were estimated at 73,696 or 13.7 percent of the labor force. The outside area where the largest number of Region 1 residents went to work was the State of Illinois. The regional "work force" represents all workers employed in the region no matter where they reside. In 2007 persons commuting to work into the region from outside areas was estimated at 22,613 or 4.7 percent of the work force. The area sending the greatest number of persons into the region to work was the State of Illinois.

For the year 2007 there were 322,400 jobs at industries within this seven-county region. The largest employing industry in the region was manufacturing, having 15.4 percent of the total industry employment, with government (all levels) second at 14.7 percent.

The industry showing the most growth in workers over a three year period to 2007 was transportation & warehousing, increasing by 2,770 workers or 26.2 percent above the 10,570 total workers in that industry in 2004. Region 1 has 18,033 firms, with 485 firms or about 2.7 percent employing 100 or more workers, while firms employing fewer than 10 workers account for 70.3 percent. Also, the number firms employing fewer than 10 workers increased 0.5 percent or 63 firms between 1999 and 2007 to total 12,685 firms in 2007.

The 2007 all-industry average earnings for Region 1 was \$36,737 per year versus the overall Indiana average of \$37,529. The region average wage represented an increase of 8.2 percent over 2004's region industry average wage of \$33,958. Thirteen of Region 1's twenty industry sectors (including government) had annual average earnings lower than the Indiana average for those industries. The region's management of companies & enterprises industry had the highest average earnings at \$71,868 per year, with utilities second at \$70,517; the industry with the lowest annual earnings number was accommodation & food services at \$11,354. The same industries statewide paid an average \$72,683, \$66,783, and \$12,456 per year, respectively.

Source of Employment and Wage Data: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW).

Bruce Bendull, Regional Analyst
(219) 762-6592 extension 228
bbendull@dwd.in.gov
Updated 2/27/09